116, 221, 361

"'They were of wandering habits, yet they seldom advanced beyond the boundaries which marked their own respective possessions--their place of encampment depended on the food they had obtained in hunting or fishing--as it was their custom to make their sojourn where they procured their prey and took their last meal' (Melville, p. 346). Fourneaux (Cook's Sec. Voy. Bk. I. ch. vii.) thought they were nomadic: 'They lie on the ground, on dried grass; and I believe they have no settled habitation (as their houses seemed built only for a few days), but wander about in small parties from place to place, in search of food, and are actuated by no other motive. We never found more than three or four huts in a place, capable of containing three or four persons each only.' The following extracts from Rossel (I. ch. iii. p. 51; ch. iv. pp. 69 and 82) confirm Fourneaux's supposition: 'I found near the stream the remains of some encampments of the natives of the country. The oyster-shells and limpets, pieces of burnt wood, and the down-trodden grass near, assured me that they had stayed there.... At a short distance from the shore, three huts, which were abandoned, made us think that the natives of the country came to live on this little island during certain seasons of the year. This island [La Haye] is covered with trees; at every step, there, we came across oyster-shells and recent traces of fire, which seemed to show that it had been inhabited by the natives of their country, and that they could only have abandoned it very recently' [time of year,

May]. Breton says (p. 349) 'they lead a wandering life,' and Widowson (pp. 189-190), that they have no appointed place or situation to live in; they roam about at will. . . . They rarely move at night.' "

"Péron (ch. xx. sec. i. p. 448) speaks of their 'always wandering,' and states (ch. xvi. pp. 337-338): 'From what I have elsewhere narrated of our dealings with the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, it can be seen that, not only those on Bruny Island belong [118] to the same race, but, further, that they migrate alternately from the one region to the other. It is probable that at the time of our anchorage in Adventure Bay they were on the mainland; for we could not discover any traces of their actually living there. It would appear, likewise, that this part of Bruny Island is less frequented by them than that opposite Van Diemen's Land; which seemed to me to arise from scarcity, in Adventure Bay, of the large Haliotis, big Turbos, and oysters, which constitute the principal food of these people. To make up for this, however, the Bay during summer, when the channel is dried up, supplies them with all the water which they need.' According to Holman (IV. ch. xii. p. 405): 'Migration from one part of the island to another is usual with the respective tribes, according to the season of the year; the attainment of food appearing to be their principal object in the change of place.' "

1: Roth--118 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
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"Governor Arthur mentions that the north-east coast of Van Diemen's Land was continually frequented by the natives for shell-fish, and also on account of its being the best sheltered and warmest part of the island, and remote from the settled districts' (Colonies and Slaves, p. 4). Brodribb (ibid. p. 52) mentions that 'The natives from the eastward do not go further west than Abyssinia,' and amongst certain places visited by them 'there is one in the Campbell Town district, where they go to obtain flint. The natives remain more stationary in the winter than in the summer... they are then comparatively inactive.' The Rev. R. Knopwood (ibid. p. 53) understood that the natives cross the country from east to west in the month of March. O'Connor (ibid. p. 54) states: 'They are never seen in winter; ... they then retire into the interior.'"

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"It is strange Jeffreys (p. 127) should say, 'They but seldom visit the coast,' for all other writers refer to such visits, and we have the evidence of the recent shell-mounds. He, however, continues: 'Their excursions, in the autumn, are supposed to be from west to east, and in the spring from east to west.' There can be no doubt from all the above that the migrations of the aborigines were periodical, and West (II. p. 20) sums up the question thus: 'The tribes took up their periodical stations, and moved with intervals so regular, that their migrations were anticipated, as well as the season of their return. The person employed in their pursuit by the aid of his native allies, was able to predict at what period and place he should find a tribe;. . . and though months intervened, he found them in the valley, and at the time he foretold,' adding [119] (II. p. 83), 'During the winter, the natives visited the seashore: they disappeared from the settled districts about June, and returned in October.'"

"From Fourneaux's account it did not seem that they moved in large numbers; but Prinsep (p. 78) says: 'They move in large bodies, with incredible swiftness, forty or fifty miles in one night.' This statement contradicts that of Widowson, as regards travelling at night; but as regards numbers agrees with O'Connor (p. 54), who says they 'travel in parties of ten, twenty, and thirty.' 'Though they rarely remain two days in a place, they seldom travel far at a time. Each tribe keeps much to its own district' (Backhouse, p. 104). We have seen above that Melville also says they keep within their boundaries; but both statements appear to contradict the reasons usually described as the cause of their intertribal feuds."

1: Roth--119 [2]
116, 221, 462

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"According to Laplace (III. ch. xviii. p. 201), in their constant journeys it was the women who had 'to carry the hunting or fishing utensils, the provisions, and the children unable to walk.'"

1: Roth--119 [3] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 221, 361, 592

"'Each tribe of the aborigines is divided into several families, and each family, consisting of a few individuals, occupies its own fire' (Backhouse, p. 104). Lloyd (p. 137) says also: 'Wherever a tribe of aborigines locate themselves, each family kindles its separate fire at fourteen to twenty yards apart.' 'They never kindle large fires, lest their haunts might be tracked, but choose retired situations, and generally where food and water are easily attainable' (Van Diemen's Land Annual, 1834, p. 78). 'Their encampments were always formed on the margin of a stream or lagoon. To be within reach of a natural reservoir was of prime importance to a people who had no means of digging wells, or of carrying about with them, for any considerable distance, a stock of water' (Dove, I. p. 250)."